Class of 2012 Employment Report
The Class of 2012 was comprised of 126 MS and PhD graduates from May, August, and December of 2012. The School of Information Career Development Office officially surveyed these graduates in August of 2013 and there were 81 respondents representing a 64% response rate. Partial data on 46 graduates was collected manually through emails, phone calls, in-person visits, and social media. This report includes basic employment data on all 122 respondents (both formal and informal), which accounts for 97% of the class and is thereby representative of the cohort.

Key Points:

- Employment prospects are healthy; graduates assume a huge diversity of job titles and positions in a wide range of industries
- Starting salaries vary widely with the emerging fields accounting for higher salaries
- Planning early for career transition improves placement; 81% of those employed within 3 months of graduation consulted with Career Services
- The majority of students begin their job search at least 3 months before graduation (52%)
- Information Science is the first professional career for 62.5% of our graduates
- 90% reported professional job outcomes and continuing education
- Job satisfaction is reportedly high at 91% satisfied
- 67% of our graduates work in public service, education, and non-profits with 33% in the private sector
- Texas is retaining 64% of our graduates; the rest are sprinkled across the country
- An internship and/or the capstone experience was reported to be the most helpful activity in obtaining employment
- Networking impacts employment outcomes with 20% of graduates securing employment with an organization with which they had prior experience (including internships)

The job market in 2012 was considerably better than the previous two years with students securing employment faster.

**How long did it take to secure a job in 2012?**

- 66% employed prior to graduation
- 85% employed within 3 months of graduation
- 90% employed within 6 months of graduation
- 96% employed within 9 months of graduation

The tech community continued to seek out and absorb many of our graduates. The public sector employers were also emphasizing technical skill sets for traditional library and archives positions. The class of 2012 by and large was a savvy group who knew they had to bolster their technical skills to gain a competitive edge in the marketplace.

The interdisciplinary nature of the iSchool prepares graduates for a wide range of careers and the diverse skill sets of iSchool talent are valued in many industries. The versatility of the program allows grads to switch fields readily and take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Austin tech community and beyond.
68% are using services early, ~72 students

**Employment Status 2012**

- **Continuing Education**: 3%
- **Professional Jobs**: 87%
- **Underemployed**: 3%
- **Unemployed**: 3%
- **Unknown**: 3%

All 126 Graduates
Employment Sectors - 2012

- Education (including Higher Ed): 45%
- Private Industry: 33%
- Public Service/Government: 15%
- Non-Profit: 7%

Of 114 Respondents

Placement by Employing Industry - 2012

- Libraries: 31
- Archives: 18
- High Tech: 17
- Higher Education: 14
- Adv. & Marketing: 13%
- Business & Finance: 15%
- Health & Pharma: 15%
- Oil & Natural...: 16%
- Education: 28%
- Museums: 16%
- Records Mgmt: 15%
- Eng. & Hard.: 13%
- Food Service: 4%
- Social Services: 3%
- Legal: 2%
- Intelligence: 2%
- Human Resources: 2%
- Entertainment: 2%
- Consulting: 2%
- Other: 1%

110 Respondents
Sample Employers - 2012

- ABS Capital
- Adlucent
- Alexander Street Press
- American Institute of Physics, The Niels Bohr Library & Archives
- Applied Research Labs
- AVG Technologies Inc
- Center for Digital Research & Scholarship, Columbia University
- Cerner
- Chaotic Moon Studios
- Circular Energy
- Cisco Systems (2)
- Country Music Hall of Fame
- Dell
- Design for Use (2)
- Fahrenheit Marketing
- General Motors - IT Division
- Goodwill Industries of Central Texas
- Hewlett Packard
- History Factory
- IBM
- Infochimps
- LiveOak Venture Partners
- Mitrathlete (2)
- National Bureau of Economic Research
- National Instruments
- Novotus
- OpenText
- RetailMeNot
- Scott & White
- T3
- Technip
- The Coca-Cola Company
- The History Factory
- The Thinkery
- The Williamson Museum
- Tk20
- Tokyo Electron
- Visual Communications
- Whole Foods Market
- Wipro Technologies
- Yale University

Sample Titles - 2012

- Ed. & Training Services Contractor
- Curator
- Digital Asset Manager (2)
- Director of Workflow, Information and Process
- Junior Business Systems Analyst
- Marketing Director
- Petrotechnical Data Manager
- Production Specialist
- Records Management Officer
- Research Analyst
- Research Data Manager
- Scholarly Communications Advisor
- Search Marketer
- Software Applications Engineer
- Software Developer
- Sourcing Analyst
- Sustainability Engineer – Data Management & Analytics
- Systems Analyst
- Technical Writer
- UI Dev / UX Designer (11)
- Web Content Specialist
Librarian & Archivist Titles 2012

- Adult Programming Librarian
- Law Librarian for Access Services
- Digital Archivist (3)
- Digital Image Metadata Librarian
- Digital Learning Initiatives
- Digital Library Consultant
- Digital Preservation & Electronic Records Archivist
- Digital Projects Librarian (res)
- Digital Reformatting Specialist
- Digital Stewardship Librarian
- Faculty Services/Reference
- Historic Resources Specialist
- Instructional Services Librarian (3)
- Open Source Officer
- Outreach & Information Literacy
- Preservation Manager
- Project Archivist (2)
- Public Services Librarian
- School Librarian (5)
- Social Work Librarian
- Special Collections Cataloging Coordinator
- Technical Services Librarian
- Visiting Archival Operations and Reference Specialist

Placement by Geography - 2012

19 states and one foreign country besides TX represented
Starting Job Search in Relation to Graduation 2012

- 9 months after: 1 (1%)
- 6 months after: 1 (1%)
- 3 months after: 7 (10%)
- At graduation: 26 (36%)
- 3 months prior: 17 (23%)
- 6 months prior: 16 (22%)
- 9 months prior: 5 (7%)

73 Respondents

Secured Employment Timeline - 2012

- Have Not Yet Secured: 3 (4%)
- 9 months after: 4 (5%)
- 6 months after: 4 (5%)
- 3 months after: 14 (19%)
- At Graduation: 29 (40%)
- 3 months prior: 14 (19%)
- 6 months prior: 2 (3%)
- 9 months prior: 3 (4%)
Ranking of Skills Needed - 2012

Most helpful in obtaining employment? - 2012

- Internship and/or Capstone Experience
- Technological Skills (HTML, PHP, etc.)
- Networking & Professional Associations
- CDO (iCareers site, workshops, advising, etc.)
- iSchool Professor
- Specialization or 2nd Master’s
- Student Organization/Leadership
Advice from the Class of 2012

When graduates were asked what they would like to share about the job search process they had a lot of advice to give to students following in their footsteps.

Finding this job was a stroke of luck—my current supervisor came and spoke to our class and mentioned that there was an open position. If she hadn't visited, I never would have known about this job, much less applied for it.

"Government Information Analyst" doesn't sound like something I was trained to do, but as I looked at the job description I realized that it was a great fit. Look at job descriptions and not just job titles—you might be surprised for which jobs you're qualified.

Be savvy about marketing your skills outside the information profession.

I met with Tara to go over my resume and cover letter each time I applied for jobs, and this was very helpful.

If Dr. Galloway had not encouraged my interest in legacy systems, and if Dr. Barker had not encouraged me to take Dr. Galloway's class, then I'd probably not have this job.

Make sure you tailor your resume and cover letter to each individual posting. Employers can't tell if you are using the same generic cover letter.

You'll stand out if you can show that your skill set meets the specific needs of a particular organization/university/library.

Use the same language in your resume and cover letter that is used in the job posting. The search committee will likely score you on a matrix based on whether or not you address the requirements, skills, and knowledge in the posting.

Network, know how to sell yourself and your skills, and tailor your application to address exactly what the employer is looking for.

Search for a job while you have another job (or while you're still in school)—it will be a lot less stressful since you won't spend every day agonizing about getting a job, plus you can be choosier and only take a job you really like, rather than taking the first job that'll have you. Like a prom date.

Be open-minded for their job search. There are many positions that have the same name like "librarian" or "archivist," but those searches can limit the student to the industries that use those terms. Information is managed in every industry and employers organize their information in many different ways. People who have formal training with indexation, classification schemes, data analysis, preservation and data management are in hot demand.

Tara was so very helpful! The practice interviews and speed-interview session were pretty nerve-wracking and uncomfortable for me, but they helped me better understand what my potential interview pitfalls were. Because of the faux-interview experiences, I was able to correct my errors and go confidently into real interviews.